State	Name of the Projects	Release	
		1998-99	1999-2000
Schemes Common to NE& Sikkim	Indira Gandhi National Open University	—	8.00
	SUB-TOTAL:		8.00
	GRAND-TOTAL:	121.95	303.68

Exemption from Requirement of Spending Plan Allocation on North East

2427. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether the Central Ministries/Departments like Health (including ISM&H), Women and Child Development, Environment and Forests, Industrial Development, Industrial Policy and Promotion, Economic Affairs including Banking, Bio-Technology and Food Processing Industries are exempted from the requirement of spending 10 per cent of the budgeted plan allocation on North-East;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to withdraw the exemption in view of the relevance and importance of the activities of these Ministries/ Department for the North-East; and

(c) which are the other Department/Ministries exempted from the requirement of spending 10 per cent of their plan budget on the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Madam. At the initial stages nineteen Departments, including the ones enumerated in

(a) were exempted from meeting the requirement of 10% norm prescribed for the North East (and Sikkim).

(b) & (c) Recently, a review of exempted Departments was undertaken and now it has been decided to exempt only eight Departments—namely, the Departments of Economic Affairs (incl. Banking), Expenditure, Revenue, Planning Space, Supply, Atomic Energy and Ocean Development.

Employment Generation

† 2428. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has not been any remarkable increase in the employment generation during the last five years of Economic Reforms; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the employment generation during the period from 1985 to 1990 and 1990 to 1999, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Quinquennial Surveys on Employment and Unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) provide comprehensive information on employment and Unemployment situation in the country. The last three such Surveys were conducted by the NSSO in 1983, 1987-88 and 1993-94. As per these Surveys of NSSO, the rate of growth of employment, on Usual Status basis, during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94 was 2.43 and per annum compared to 1:58% per annum during 1983 to 1987- 88.

Centra] Assistance to the States under Minimum Needs Programme

2429. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance granted under the Minimum Needs Programme